

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

ACDA-10 /080 W

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R 021705Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0190

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR GW PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO FRG'S REPLY TO SOVIET

STATEMENT OF MAY 22

REF: BONN 11117

1. GENERAL-ANZEIGER (GA)

REPORTED ON JULY 1 REACTION TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S REPLY TO THE SOVIET DECLARATION. GA REPORTED THAT THE GERMAN REPLY HAD MET WITH CRITICISM IN PARTS OF THE SPD, ESPECIALLY THE PASSAGES IN WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OUTLINES ITS VIEWS CONCERNING A "REALISTIC POLICY OF DETENTE." IT LOOKED AS IF SOME LEADING SPD POLITICIANS, INCLUDING PARTY CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT, WOULD HAVE PREFERRED MORE CONCILIATORY FORMULATIONS IN THESE PASSAGES, ACCORDING TO THE GA.

2. THE OPPOSITION, ON THE OTHER HAND, SEEMED TO BE LARGELY AGREEABLE TO THE TEXT OF THE GERMAN REPLY, PARTICULARLY TO THE PASSAGES IN WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DEALS WITH THE BERLIN PROBLEM AND WITH THE SOVIET ATTEMPT TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN PRO-DETENTE AND ANTI-DETENTE FORCES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

3. OTHER TYPICAL PRESS COMMENT ON JULY 2

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE: "...MORE THAN ENOUGH WORDS HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED BETWEEN BONN AND MOSCOW. (SOVIET) GOOD WILL SHOULD NOW BE DEMONSTRATED BY DEEDS. OCCASIONS FOR DOING SO CERTAINLY WILL ARISE IN BERLIN."

SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG: "...(BONN'S REPLY TO THE SOVIET DECLARATION) LISTS FOUR POINTS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED BY THE WEST AS BASIC CONDITIONS AND AS A TOUCHSTONE FOR CONTINUING THE POLICY OF DETENTE: VIABILITY OF WEST BERLIN, MAINTAINING THE MILITARY BALANCE, NO SEEKING OF UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER SIDE, NO CHANGE IN THE BALANCE OF FORCES BY INTERVENTION IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. THE REPLY IS BASED ON EXPERIENCES OF RECENT YEARS, KISSINGER'S HANDWRITING IS UNCLASSIFIED

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EASILY DISCERNIBLE...."

FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU: "...BONN'S REPLY CERTAINLY IS NOT WEAK. EVEN THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE FOUND SOME PRAISE FOR IT. BOTH SIDES HAVE OUTLINED THEIR POSITIONS QUITE FIRMLY."

DIE WELT: "...(THE REPLY) IS COUCHED IN SOBER

LANGUAGE OF REALISM. REJECTING SOVIET
MISINTERPRETATIONS, THE BONN GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED
SOLID LANDMARKS IN THE FIELD OF DETENTE. LANDMARKS MOSCOW
WILL FIND INCONVENIENT.

4. COMMENT: THE REPLY'S EMPHASIS ON REALISTIC,
PRAGMATIC DETENTE, COUPLED WITH A DECLARATION OF
WILLINGNESS TO SEEK IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE USSR,
APPEARS TO HAVE INITIALLY CAPTURED THE CENTER POSITION
IN THE BONN POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

HILLENBRAND

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